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COLCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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COLCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Colchester
OYSTER
FEAST
WYVENHOO
BODIGARDUS
DREDGERMANNI
MAIOR
CORPORATORES
PORTREVUS
CORVUS
OCT. 22. 1895.
CLAUDE E.
EGERTON-GREEN
MAYOR.
WITH THE GARDENS OF ROSES ABOVE US,
WHILE THE OYSTER-BEDS TEEM IN OUR REACH.
SWINBURNE.
W. GURNEY BENHAM.

COLCHESTER OYSTER FEAST.

By W. GURNEY BENHAM.

COLCHESTER:
"Essex County Standard" Office, 24, High Street.
1902.

GLOUCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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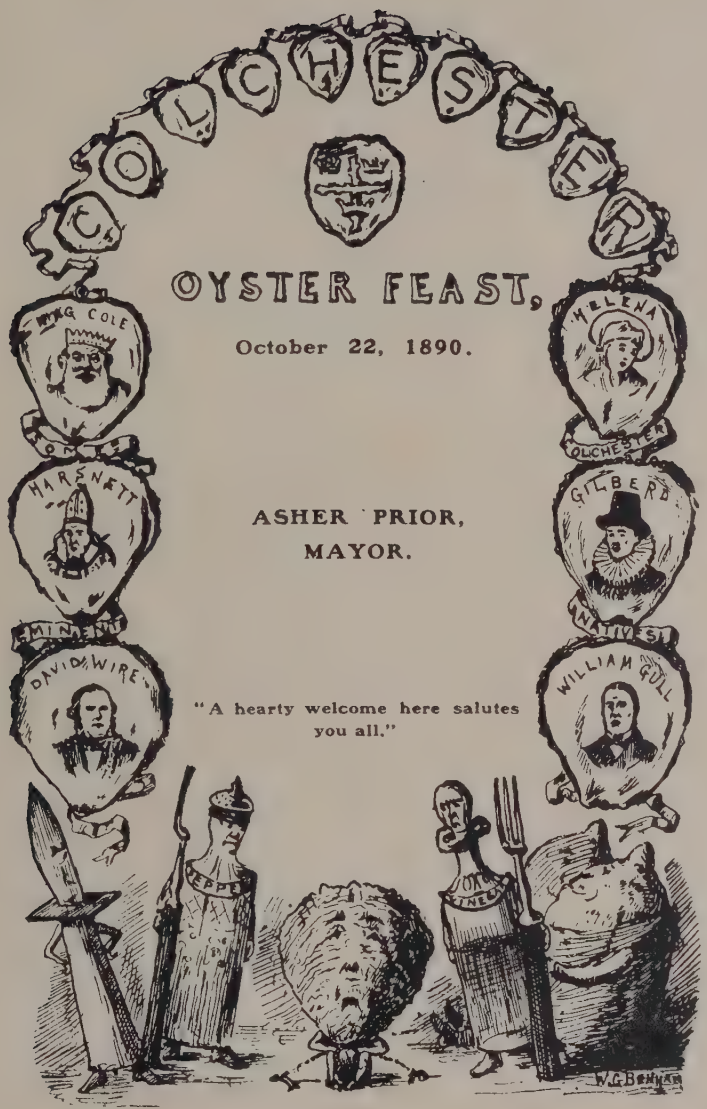
COLCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE earliest mention that we find of the Colchester Oyster Feast in the ancient records of Colchester appears in the Chamberlains' accounts for the year 1667, when on October 22nd, "2 hole barrells and 4 halfs of oysters" were "sent up by Mr. Mayor's orders" at a cost to the town of 16s. At the same time 2s. was paid for "2 case knifes" and 6s. "for the carridge of oysters." In other accounts are such entries as "grindinge ye oyster knifes, 6d." (1679), "vinegar and pipes, 1s." (1683), and frequent disbursements for oysters, especially during the month of October, and often on St. Denys's Day (October 9th, old style). That day was a day of festivity. The bells were rung; drummers, fifers, and "musicians" were employed; and liquors of various kinds were consumed and paid for out of the public monies. In ancient days, however, the Oyster Feast was select. Apparently only the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors partook of it, and it was variously styled "the Oyster Luncheon" or "the Oyster Supper." The bills for these feasts early in the nineteenth century varied considerably, the cost being from about £3 to £12. None of this was for oysters, which were no doubt supplied gratuitously from the Corporation Oyster Fishery. The bills generally included a few pounds for wine, and a few shillings for "glasses broken." The feast was held in "the large room" of the old Moot Hall. When the enquiry by the Municipal Corporations Commission was held at Colchester in 1834, the Commissioner was inconveniently inquisitive about the Oyster Feast. The Town Clerk (Mr. Francis Smythies) was reticent on the subject, but the Commissioner managed to ascertain from him that at the October Fair on St. Denys's Day, it was the custom for the Mayor and Corporation to go in procession and proclaim the

Fair, "after which," added the Town Clerk, "the Corporation go into their chamber, and a present of oysters is made to them by the Colne Fishery Company, wine being drunk on the occasion."

The Feast was by no means abolished by the Municipal Reform Act, but it was not until the year 1845 that it was extended to the public generally. In that year the Mayor, Alderman HENRY WOLTON, invited about 200 guests, and the Feast took place in the newly-completed Town Hall. The contemporary account, published in the "Essex Standard" of October 24th, 1845, states that "the annual Corporation Luncheon or Oyster Feast took place on Monday, on a scale of extended liberality, which is without a parallel in its former celebrations." It must be understood, however, that the feast had been annually mentioned for many years before this in the local press, and that it was generally referred to as "the annual Corporation Luncheon, which has been held *from time immemorial*."

Alderman WOLTON'S example was followed by other Mayors, and eventually the feast outgrew the capacity of the Town Hall. It was held for the first time in the Colchester Corn Exchange in 1887, the year of Queen VICTORIA'S Jubilee, when the Mayor (Mr. HORACE G. EGERTON GREEN) invited over 300 guests. In the following year the number of guests was still further extended by Alderman JAMES PAXMAN, and the feast has since grown steadily in public importance and interest. In the first Mayoralty of Alderman WILSON MARRIAGE, the Lord Mayor of London accepted an invitation to be present, and this fact and the presence of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. HERBERT GARDNER) brought it still more into public notice. In the following year, during the Mayoralty of Mr. GURNEY BENHAM, the feast was honoured by the presence of H.R.H. the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, and a very distinguished company, which included the LORD MAYOR, Dean HOLE, the late GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA, and a number of distinguished men. Since that date, Lord Chancellor HALSBURY, Lord Chancellor HERSCHELL, Lord ROSEBERY, the Right Hon. CHAS. T. RITCHIE, M.P., Lord KELVIN, Mr. HANBURY, M.P., Cardinal VAUGHAN, Sir W. H. PREECE, Sir COURTENAY BOYLE, Sir EVELYN WOOD, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Japanese Minister (Baron HAYASHI), Mr. AUGUSTINE BIRRELL, Mr. F. CARRUTHERS GOULD, and many other men of distinction and eminence have been guests and speakers at the feast. H.R.H. the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE was present for a second time on October 31st, 1898, on which day he laid the foundation stone of the present Town Hall of Colchester.



The pictorial Toast Lists, which have become a feature of the Feast, commenced with the one of which an illustration is here given.[1] The feast was given by Mr. Asher Prior, J.P. In the previous year, however, during the mayoralty of Alderman Edwin J. Sanders, J.P., the toast list was of a more elaborate character than had previously been the case, being illustrated with pictures of the regalia of the town, and of ancient seals connected with the borough. It also bore the following lines on the front page:—

"Ye olde luxuryous Romanes vaunte did mayke,
Of gustfull oisters took in Lucrine's lake,
Your Essex better hath, and suche perchance,
As tempted Cesar firste to passe from France."

Sir Aston Cokaine's Poems, 1669.

In 1891 the Toast List issued by the Mayor (Councillor Lent John Watts, J.P.) was in the form of a booklet souvenir, containing an account of the Colchester Oyster Fishery, written by Mr. Henry Laver, F.S.A., Mayor of Colchester in 1885-6. Pictures of the Pyefleet Oyster Fishery and photographic reproductions of the ancient seals of the Bailiffs and commonalty were also given.

Similar souvenirs were presented to their guests by Mr. Wilson Marriage in 1892, and Mr. W. Gurney Benham in 1893. In 1894 the toast list was a plain card, but in 1895 Mr. Claude E. Egerton-Green issued a card which contained three illustrations. The first of these, printed in colours, forms the frontispiece of this volume. Within were two drawings, given upon the opposite page. These foreshadowed the probable building of a new town hall, and illustrated the following lines, which were written by Mr. Egerton-Green.

THE TOWN HALL.

loquitur :—

Full fifty year have I stood here,
Though highly rated, ne'er first-rate;
My Jubilee is but to me
The death-knell of my coming fate.

I've felt the shake of earth's dread quake,
I've borne the blast of fire and weather,
I'm wholly cracked, and as a fact
My timbers scarce hold me together.

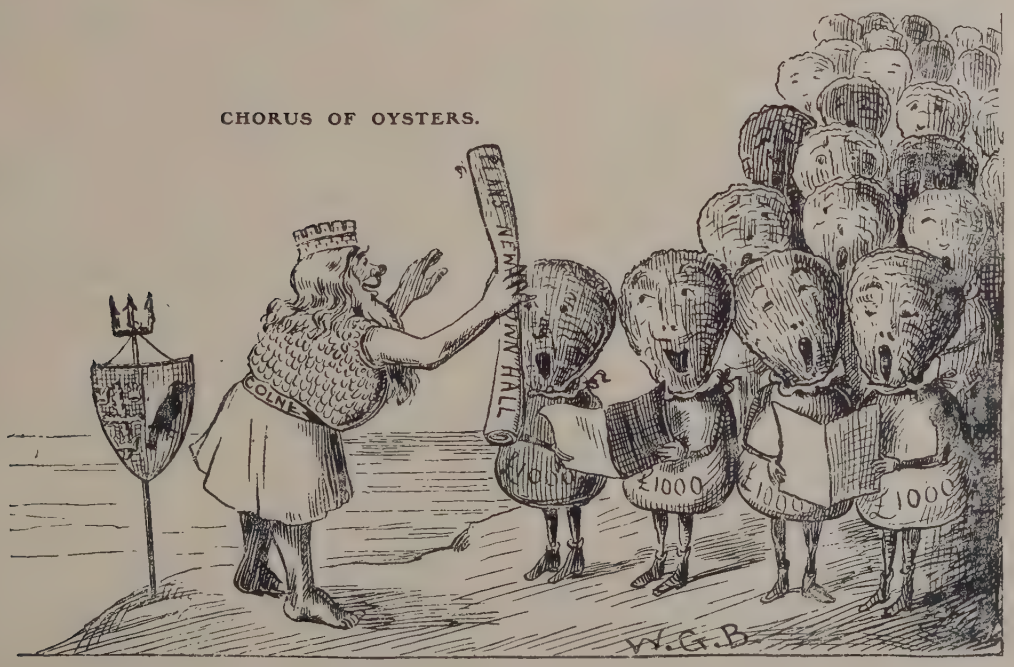
'Tis time I went, ere more is spent
On patching, painting, and repair;
Come, Pyefleet, come, and tow me home,
Like Mr. Turner's "Temeraire."

CHORUS OF OYSTERS.

Ye natives of Colchester—natives of Colne,
What you've done for their comfort would gratefully own;
As you gave us the Pyefleet to keep our beds clean,
So we'll give you a building that's fit to be seen.
From our cloisters of cultch and of culture we rise,
And we bring you the means to promote this emprise.
True, to build a Town Hall is a *curious* art,
But you'll find that we oysters are ready to part
With our shells, with our beards, with our lives, with our all;
So you shall not shell out for your own new Town Hall.

The "Pyefleet" alluded to in these lines was a new steam dredger of that name which had been recently purchased by the Corporation to facilitate and extend the oyster fishery. It appears in the illustration.

COLCHESTER TOWN HALL TUGGED TO ITS LAST RESTING PLACE.



CHORUS OF OYSTERS.

SKETCHES FROM THE OYSTER FEAST TOAST LIST OF OCTOBER 22, 1895.

(Mr. Claude E. Egerton-Green, J.P., D.L., Mayor.)

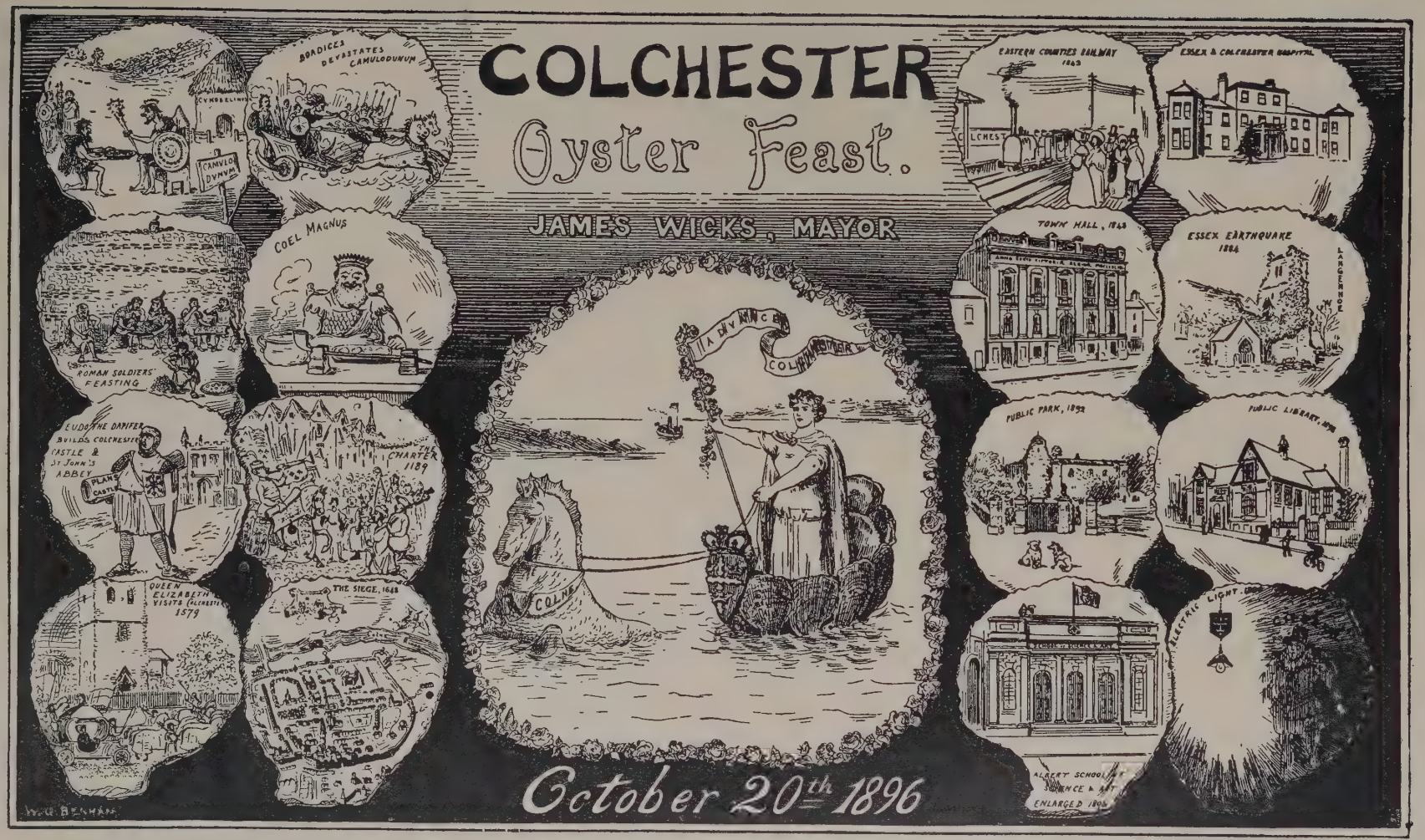
THE TOAST LIST OF 1896.

THE MAYOR TO HIS GUESTS.

Whether natives, or freemen, or guests from afar,
  Whatever allegiance you own,
Be assured of a WELCOME, whoever you are,
  To this feast of fat things from the Colne.
May natives with natives, for once in a way,
  —Not outwardly only—agree;
May those who are freemen contrive for to-day
  From all discontent to be free;
May those who are strangers feel quite at their ease,
  Nor fancy they're strangers at all:
They may soon be on intimate terms if they please,
  With the natives they find in this hall.

W.G.B.

These lines appeared on the toast list issued by Alderman JAMES WICKS, J.P., Mayor, at the Oyster Feast on October 20th, 1896, when the EARL of ROSEBERY attended and made a memorable speech indicating his views on foreign policy and emphasising his renunciation of the Liberal leadership. The illustration on the opposite page is a reduced reproduction of the pictorial portion of this Toast List.


COLCHESTER
Oyster Feast.
JAMES WICKS, MAYOR
CYMBELINE
CAMVLO DVNVM
BOADICEA DEVASTATES CAMULODUNUM
COEL MAGNUS
ROMAN SOLDIERS FEASTING
EUDO THE DAPIFER BUILDS COLCHESTER CASTLE & ST JOHN'S ABBEY
PLAN OF CASTLE
CHARTER 1189
QUEEN ELIZABETH VISITS COLCHESTER 1579
THE SIEGE, 1648
COLNE
EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY 1843
COLCHESTER
ESSEX & COLCHESTER HOSPITAL
TOWN HALL, 1843
ESSEX EARTHQUAKE 1884
JAMES WICKS
PUBLIC PARK, 1892
PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1894
ELECTRIC LIGHT, 1896
ALBERT SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & ART ENLARGED 1896
October 20th 1896

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE TOAST LIST

was designed in diamond form, and was ornamented with numerous designs relating to the history of the town. These included six small sketches illustrative of the famous "rights of the freemen" of Colchester. The Charter of Richard I. (1189) confirmed to the burgesses the right to hunt "the fox, the hare, and the pole-cat." These rights, and the more modern privilege enjoyed by the freemen, of receiving certain "eightpences" (in lieu of a dinner formerly allowed them) are shown in the pictures on page 13. The combative nature of the freemen, evidenced of late years in their predilection for litigation. is also indicated.

Other pictorial adornments of this toast list are reproduced on pages 15 and 17, and explain themselves.

COLCHESTER
OYSTER
FEAST
HORACE G. EGERTON GREEN
MAYOR
OCTOBER 20
1897

THE RIGHTS OF THE COLCHESTER FREEMEN.

From the "Diamond Jubilee" Toast List, 1897.

ye RYGHTES OF ye
FREEMEN OF CICHESTER
THEYR CONTENTMENT
ON RECEYVING OF ye CHARTER
NORTH BRIDGE
MIDDLE MILL
RIVER
SOUTH EAST MILLS
COLNE
ye COLNE CONTINENED
TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED
WEST NESSE
ye RYGHTE OF
ye FYSHERIE
ye RYGHTE TO HVNT
ye POLE-CATTE

ye RYGHTE
OF RECEYVING
BOWGARDS
TOWN CLARKS ACCOMPTANS
FREMENTES
1 SD
OF ye
EIGHT PENCE'S
ye RYGHTE TO HVNT
ye HARE & ye FOXE
ye FREEMEN COMBATYNG
WITH THEYR ENEMYES
W. GURNEY BENHAM

FROM THE "DIAMOND JUBILEE" TOAST LIST, 1897.

The following lines appeared in the diamond shaped openings which are left blank on the opposite page:—

I.

To public men—and private men as well—
The Moral of the Feast these verses tell.
In spite of foes, which everywhere abound,
The cool, impassive Oyster keeps his ground;
Tenacious, firm, in temper unexcelled,
His mouth kept shut, unless he is compelled,
And then imparting only what he should,
Not for his own, but for the public good,
All sweet, agreeable, in perfect taste,
With naught superfluous to vex—or waste;
Unselfishly relinquishing his ease,
His only object seems to be to please.

II.

Ratepayers rude may drag him from his shell,
And probe, and prod, and pepper him as well,
And sour his mild existence. But, what then?
To live for some brief space in mouths of men
Is Fame,— and such contents the Oyster's soul;
To satisfy is his ambition's goal;
And though not proud, his gentle heart will flutter
To know he's worthy of his bread and butter.
So thousands here, in uncomplaining way,
Perish to make a civic holiday;
And thus the Oyster, destitute of speech,
Contrives a useful thing or two to teach.

W.G.B.

FROM THE "DIAMOND JUBILEE" TOAST LIST, OCTOBER 20th, 1897.

Reduced facsimiles of a portion of the Design.

SILHOUETTE PORTRAITS OF MEMBERS OF THE COLCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL, October, 1897.

From the Oyster Feast Toast List, October 20th, 1897.

Ald. Wicks. Ald. Elwes. Cr. Wilson Marriage. Cr. Jos. Grimes
The Mayor (Ald. Horace G. Egerton-Green)
Cr. Asher Prior.
Ald. Butcher. Ald. Laver.
Cr. Watts. Cr. Shenstone.
Ald. Paxman
Ald. Sanders.
Cr. J. W. Potter. Cr. W. Peck.
Ald. Henry Goody
Cr. G. Moore.
Cr. J. F. Goodey
Cr. Barritt.
Cr. Egerton-Green. Cr. W. G. Benham.
Cr. J. T. Argent. Cr. H. F. Nash.
Cr Bear. Cr. E. T. Smith.
Cr. G. Littlebury. Cr. J. A. Greenwood.
Cr. Penney
Cr. W. B. Sparling
Cr. Arnold. Cr. Clamp.
Cr. J. Phillips. Cr. J. Asten.

THE TOAST LIST OF 1898.

The illustrations on pages 19, 21, 23, 25, are from the Toast List issued by Alderman JAMES PAXMAN, at the Oyster Feast of October 31st, 1898, the day on which the Foundation Stone of the new Town Hall was laid. Small photographic views of (1) the old Moot Hall, (2) the old Town Hall, (3) the new Town Hall—appeared in the vacant spaces on the three blocks on pages 21, 23, and 25.

It will be seen that these three pages comprise a humorous illustrated history of Colchester.

COLCHESTER OYSTER FEAST.
OCTOBER 31ST. 1898.
ALDERMAN JAMES PAXMAN.
MAYOR
W. Gurney Benham

COLCHESTER HISTORY, No. 1.

Notes illustrative of the opposite page.

JULIUS CÆSAR, who invaded Britain B.C. 55, defeated CASSIVELLAUNUS (or CASWALLON), who is said to have made Camulodunum (Colchester) his seat of government.

CUNOBELINUS (CYMBELINE) reigned at Colchester about 4 B.C. He is said to have visited Rome and to have introduced Roman Customs into Britain.

CLAUDIUS founded a colony of Roman veterans at Colchester about A.D. 45.

CARACTACUS, son of CUNOBELINUS was taken prisoner to Rome, A.D. 50.

BOADICEA, having defeated the Romans, devastated their colony at Colchester about A.D. 60.

COEL GODEBOG ("Old King Cole") reigned at Colchester, according to ancient Chronicles, about A.D. 275.

The Danes invaded and pillaged Colchester in the 10th century.

EDWARD the ELDER drove the Danes from Colchester and restored the town and its walls A.D. 921.

ATHELSTAN held a Council of wise men (Witenagemot) at Colchester, A.D. 931.

GODRIC was Saxon Lord or Thegn of Colchester in the time of Edward the Confessor.

Colchester enjoyed considerable immunity and privileges at the time of the Norman Conquest.

IVLIVS CÆSAR
ROMAN INVASION OF COLCHESTER
SUBMISSION OF THE NATIVES TO CLAVDIVS.
CASSI-VELLAV-NVS OF COL-CHESTER B.C. 100
AFTER THE WARS
BOADICEA ENTERS COLCHESTER
WONDERFVL REARING HORSES AS SHOWN ON THE EMBANKMENT
PROP SS, BOA
DANES LANDING IN COLCHESTER
SWAG
CVNOBELINVS KING OF COLCHESTER INTRO DVCES ROMAN FASHIONS
COEL REX
EDWARD THE ELDER REBVILDS THE WALLS OF COLCHESTER
WITEN-AGEMOTE AT COLCHESTE
A.D. 931 ATHELSTAN REX.
CARACTACVS OF COLCHESTER A ROMAN CAPTIVE
COLCHESTER MAKES PEACE WITH WILLIAM THE CONQVEROR
OYSTERS
100,000
1,000,000
GODRIC THE THEGN OF COLCHESTER
W.G.B.

COLCHESTER HISTORY, No. 2.

Eudo Dapifer, Norman Lord of Colchester, buried at St. John's Abbey, 1120.

Richard I., who granted Colchester its municipal charter of 1189 confirming the privileges of the town and its right to the Colne Fishery.

King John, a frequent visitor to Colchester, re-captured the castle from the French in the year 1215.

John Beche, Abbot of St. John's, Colchester, was attainted of high treason in 1539, for refusing to give up the Abbey and its possessions. A tradition alleges that he was asked by the Bailiffs of the town to a feast, and that they there produced the King's death warrant, and caused him to be forthwith led away and hanged.

Thomas Audley, Town Clerk of Colchester, and Member of Parliament for the Borough, became Speaker of the House of Commons in 1529, and Chancellor in 1533.

In 1588, Colchester furnished two ships and a pinnace for Queen Elizabeth's service, against the Spanish Armada.

Sir Harbottle Grimston, a resident in Colchester, and member for the Borough as a Parliamentarian, became Speaker of the House of Commons in 1660, when Charles II. was called to the throne, and afterwards was made Master of the Rolls.

The Dutch and French Protestant Refugees were received in Colchester in 1570, and established the Bay and Say weaving trade.

Samuel Harsnett, Archbishop of York, a native of Colchester, bequeathed his library to Colchester for the use of ministers and divines. He died in 1631.

William Gilberd, author of " De Magnete," Physician to Queen Elizabeth, and pioneer of Electrical Science, was born at Colchester, and died in the town in 1603.

Sir Chas. Lucas and Sir George Lisle, leading Officers on the Royalist side, were shot, after the siege of Colchester in 1648.

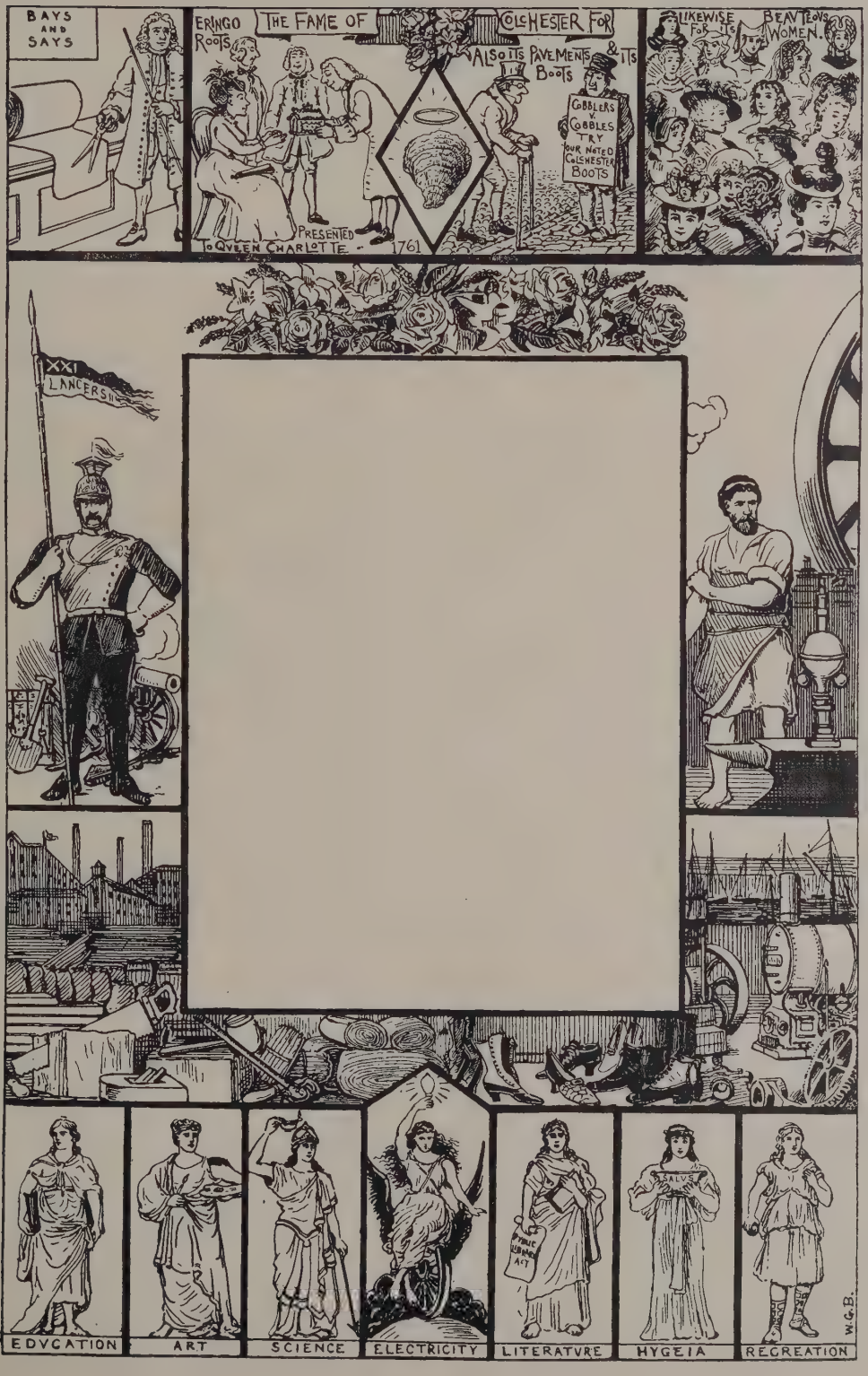
Lord Fairfax and Sir Thomas Honywood (the latter of Markshall, near Colchester) were in command of the Parliamentarian forces which besieged Colchester in 1648.

EvDo DaPifer
Founder of the Castle S. John's Abbey &c.
The Dauphin of France Surrenders Colchester Castle To King John.
Richard The First
The Merrie Jeste of The Bailiffes. 1539
Death Warrant of Abbot Beche
Abbot Beche Feasted & Led To Execution
Colchester Sends Two Ships Against The Spanish Armada
Lord Chancellor
Audley M.P. for Colchester 1523
Sir Harbottle Grimston M.P. for Colchester 1640 1683
Master of The Rolls
Dutch Weavers arrive in Colchester · 1570
Archbishop Harsnet expounds his Library for The Clergy & Ministers of Colchester.
Lord & Lisle
Dr Gilbert of Colchester shows A Mirror to Queen Elizabeth
W.G.B.
Fair Fa & Hony Wood

COLCHESTER HISTORY, No. 3.

INDUSTRIES, TRADES, MANUFACTURES, &c.

In this illustration are shown : the Bay and Say Trade which flourished up to about 1730; the presentation of candied eringo roots, a famous product of the town, to QUEEN CHARLOTTE, who visited Colchester in 1761 ; the oysters, roses, boots, pavements, and beautiful women for which the town was celebrated at various periods ; the military establishment ; the engineering industry ; milling, brewing, boiler-making, clothing, building and other trades; with various emblematic figures connected with the recent municipal development of the borough.


BAYS AND SAYS
ERINGO ROOTS
THE FAME OF
COLCHESTER FOR
ALSO ITS PAVEMENTS & ITS BOOTS
GOBBLERS V GOBBLES TRY OUR NOTED COLCHESTER BOOTS
PRESENTED TO QVEEN CHARLOTTE 1761
LIKEWISE FOR ITS BEAVTEOVS WOMEN.
XXI LANCERS
EDVCATION
ART
SCIENCE
ELECTRICITY
LITERATVRE
HYGEIA
REGREATION
W.G.B.

AULD LANG SYNE

Lines from the Toast List presented by Alderman EDWIN J. SANDERS, J.P., at the Oyster Feast, October 25, 1899. These lines refer to the figures in the illustration opposite.

King COEL was the best of kings. In fact, so good was he
That wicked men have doubted whether such a king could be.
But here, within this best of towns, his Kitchen may be seen ;
Its noble size proclaims how great and good he must have been.
It tells us unmistakably how well he used to live,
And bids us emulate the royal feasts he loved to give.
What though his fame be shadowy? All fame is but a shade;
And in the realms of Shadowland his glory shall not fade.
In jovial style, there let him hold his undisputed sway,
And feast the Worthies of his town in true Colcestrian way.
And let the famous Fiddlers Three, before that jolly lot,
Strike up the strains of "Auld Lang Syne," which ne'er should be forgot.

The ancient Kings of Colchester, amongst his guests are seen—
CASSIVELAUN, CUNOBELINUS (known as CYMBELINE),
CARACTACUS, whom AULUS PLAUTIUS brought in chains to Rome,
But, like a gallant foe, the Emperor CLAUDIUS sent him home—
So much did he contrive to captivate his captors there
With his high and haughty bearing, and his long and yellow hair.
The famous WARRIOR QUEEN between those festive Romans stands ;
Unwillingly, with sullen look, she takes their conquering hands.
By COEL sits his daughter HELEN,—saintly her renown,
The mother of great CONSTANTINE, and Patron of our town.
It's well she *is* a saint—she has so much to answer for;
She's countenanced our deeds for seven centuries or more. *
CONSTANTIUS, her husband gay, alas! belied his name;
His conduct to his sainted wife was very much to blame.
Observe the raven-crested DANE—he *will* upset the port,—
Just as he did in days of old till EDWARD cut him short.
Bored—very bored—looks ATHELSTAN, beneath his massive crown ;
He can't forget the Parliament he held within this town.
The SAXON THANE of Colchester by Norman EUDO stands,
Comparing notes about his rents and confiscated lands.
Upon the other side appear three memorable Kings ; †
JOHN BALL, who gazes at them, thinks unutterable things. ‡
A jovial shade is ABBOT BECHE, and, though he loves a jest,
He thinks the Bailiffs took undue advantage of a guest
That day they asked him to their feast, and, as the records say,
Produced their warrant then and there, and hanged him straight away.
What need to tell of GILBERD, great in scientific fame,
Who entertained ELIZABETH, when here in state she came?
Great WALSINGHAM, the town's Recorder, proved its powerful friend
(Explaining gifts of oysters which the Council used to send).
Proud of his native town ARCHBISHOP HARSNETT smiles content,
Whilst AUDLEY tackles GRIMSTON in a legal argument.
Great was the fiery BASTWICK'S fame, who wrote with such success
That the Pillory or the Prison was his usual address.
PARNEL, the Quaker zealot, had a more unpleasant fate ;
He died a willing sacrifice to pious Christian hate.
Three valiant heroes of the Siege complete the noble band—
LUCAS and LISLE and FAIRFAX, now united hand in hand ;
Like soldiers, and like Englishmen, they vex their souls no more
About the fortune—whether it was good or bad—of war.
Perhaps they see, as we their sons may see with pain and pride,
What godlike faults, what godlike virtues shone on either side.

And now God bless us one and all, and give us more renown ;
And send us many a worthy man to serve our ancient town ;
To serve our town and country, and to keep our Empire strong
To spread the Right throughout the world, and battle with the Wrong !

W.G.B.

* The Borough Seal of Colchester has borne the image of Helena since 1189.
† Richard I., who granted Colchester's charter ; John and Edward IV., both frequently at Colchester.
‡ John Ball of Colchester, the celebrated revolutionist ; hanged 1381.

A ROUND TABLE OF COLCHESTER WORTHIES.

FROM THE TOAST LIST OF OCTOBER 25th, 1899.

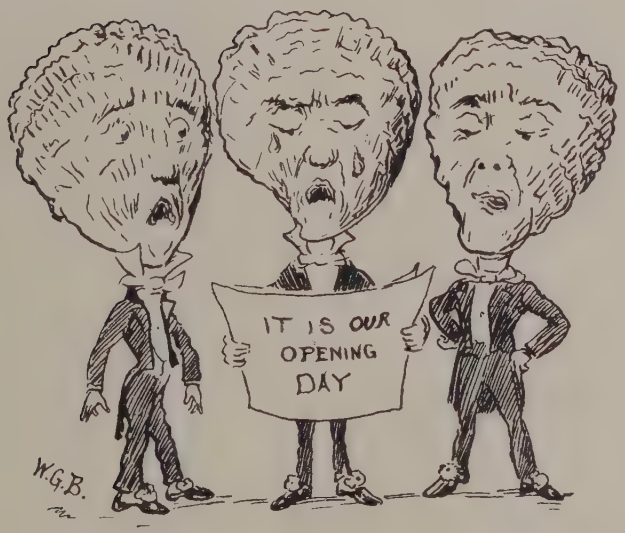
The illustration is a view of Colchester Town Hall and High Street.

A "VICE-VERSÂ" OYSTER FEAST,

From the Toast List presented by Mr. E. Thompson Smith, J.P., at the Oyster Feast, on October 25, 1900.

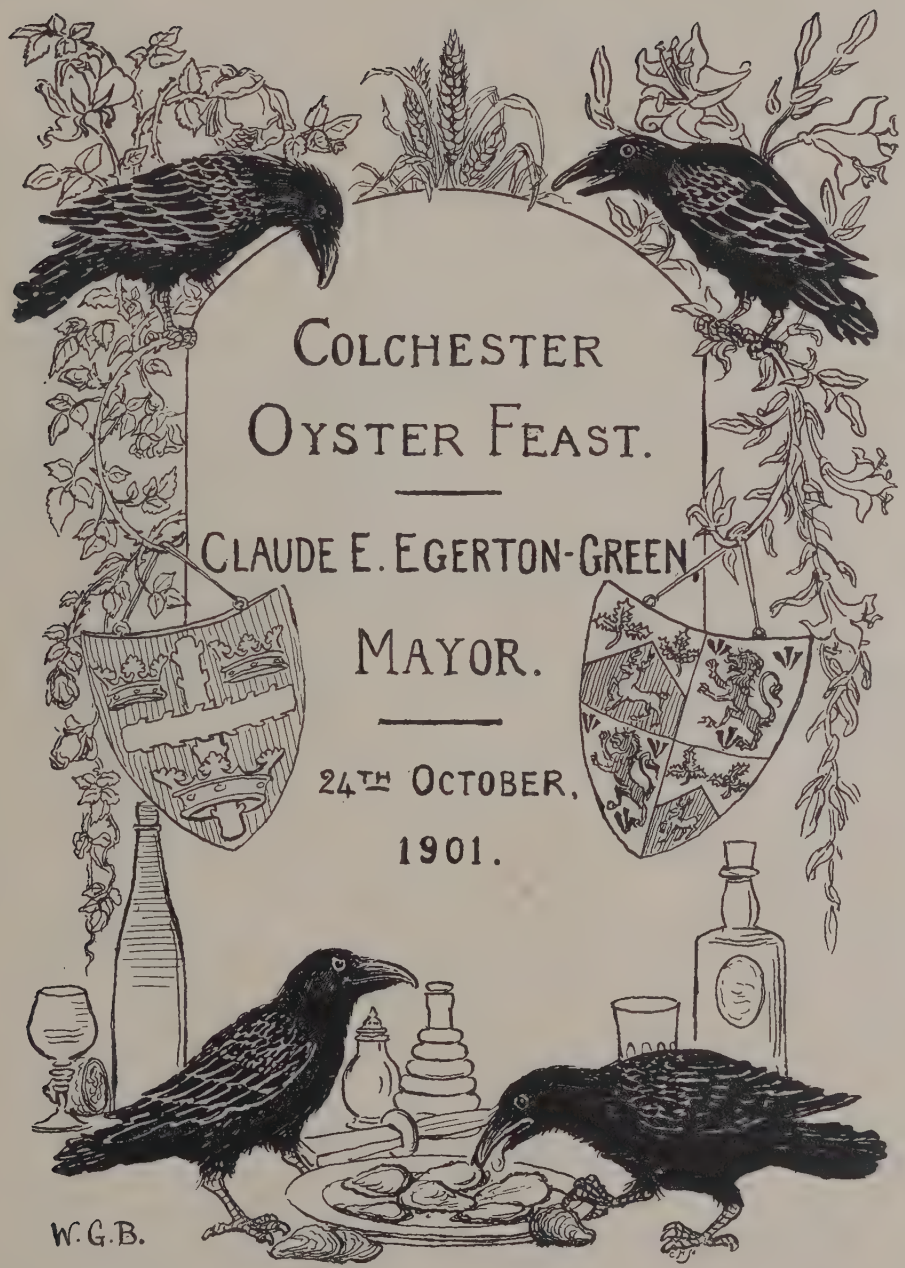
AN OYSTER FEAST BENEATH THE WATERS OF THE COLNE

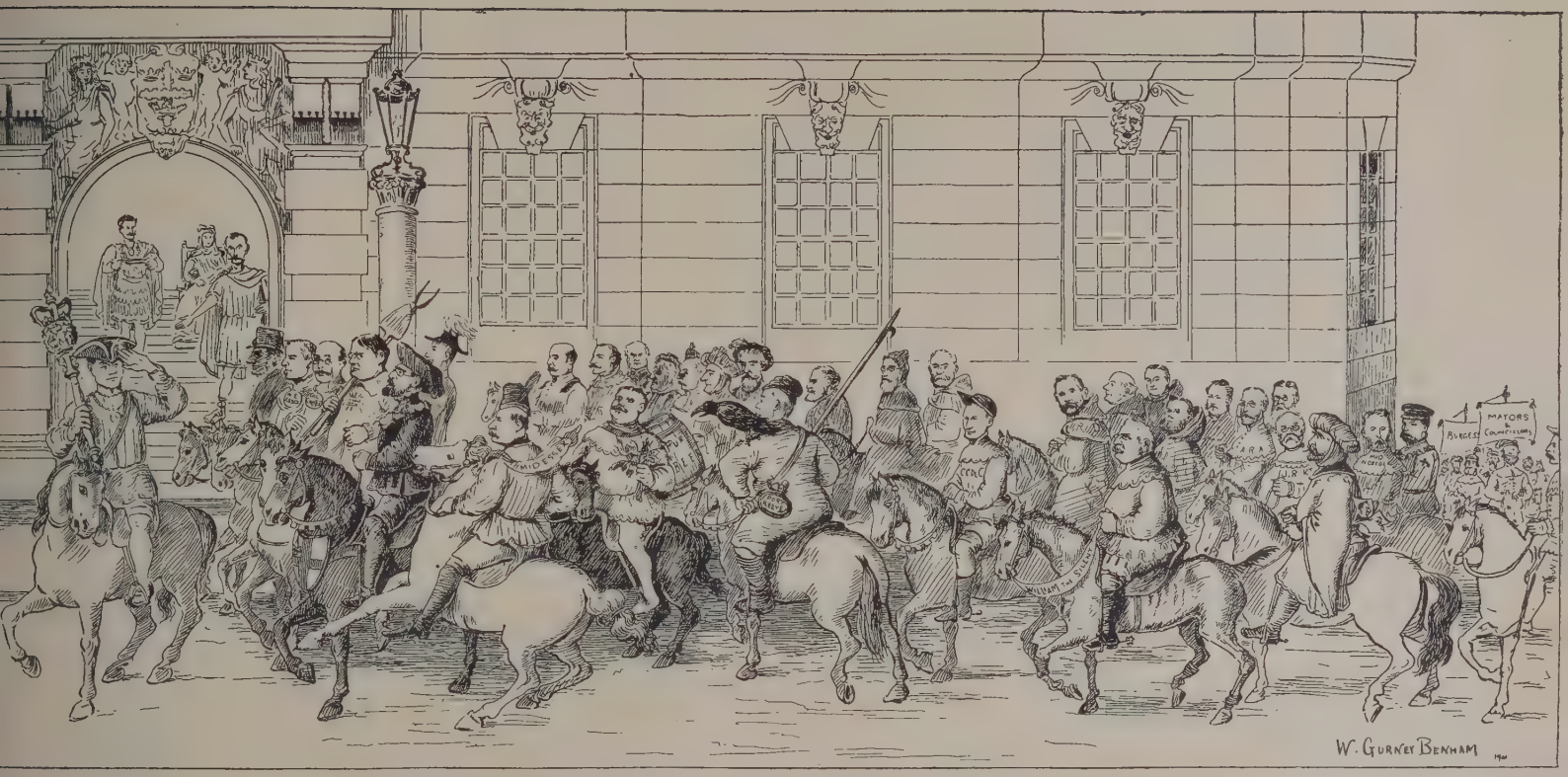
The Music.



From the Toast List of October 25, 1900.

The design opposite contains the arms of Colchester, the arms of Mr. Claude E. Egerton-Green, Mayor in 1894-5 and 1900-1901, the Ravens (emblematic of the Port of Colchester), wheat ears (which were used on the ancient coins of Camulodunum), and roses and lilies, for which the town of Colchester has become famous in modern times. It will be noticed that the raven is frequently introduced in the Toast List designs. An ancient seal of the town, described by Morant as the seal of the Portreeve, contains a figure of the raven. A photographic reproduction of this seal is here supplied :—


COLCHESTER
OYSTER FEAST.
CLAUDE E. EGERTON-GREEN,
MAYOR.
24TH OCTOBER,
1901.
W.G.B.



COLCHESTER PILGRIMS, 24th October, 1901.

The illustration from Mr. Egerton-Green's Toast List of October 24th, 1901, is founded on Stothard's "Canterbury Pilgrims" and represents the arrival of the Mayor's Guests at Colchester Town Hall.

The portraits are as follows :—

On the steps : The Mayor (Mr. Claude E. Egerton-Green) holding the loving cup ; the Mayoress ; the Town Clerk (Mr. H. C. Wanklyn).

In the first row of the arriving guests facing the Town Sergeant : The Bishop of St. Albans, Mr. Round, M.P., Sir Weetman Pearson, M.P., Mr. Hanbury, Minister of Agriculture, the Lord Mayor of London, and Major Rasch, M.P. for Mid-Essex. Behind the Lord Mayor is Major-General Sir W. F. Gatacre, and following Major Rasch is Sir Cuthbert Quilter, M.P., carrying a barrel of "pure beer." The Portreeve (Mr. Wilson Marriage), and his raven are at hand. At the back are riding in the following order :—The Deputy-Mayor (Mr. E. Thompson Smith) and Aldermen Sanders, H. Goody, W. Butcher, H. H. Elwes, Horace G. Egerton-Green, James Wicks, and Henry Laver. Behind these, in ecclesiastical attire, are the Bishop of Colchester, the Bishop of Barking, the Rural Dean (Canon Corbett), Canon Irvine, Rev. C. C. Naters, and the Rev. Thos. Batty.

Sir Claude de Crespigny marked "C.C. de C." is more in the foreground. Near him is John Corlett, "Master" of the "Pink Un" and owner of the celebrated steed "William the Silent." He is followed by F. Carruthers Gould, the eminent cartoonist.

Behind are Mr. R. K. Causton, M.P., Mr. John Belcher, A.R.A. (Architect of Town Hall), Sir William Abdy, Sir John Robinson, Mr. F. W. Wilson, M.P. for Mid-Norfolk, and Captain Sycamore, of Brightlingsea, skipper of Sir Thomas Lipton's famous yacht.

FROM THE MENU CARD OF THE DINNER GIVEN NOVEMBER 9, 1901, TO MR. CLAUDE E. EGERTON-GREEN, in recognition of his services as Mayor.

The figures are Mr. EGERTON-GREEN and Alderman WILSON MARRIAGE (Mayor and Portreeve), his successor.

The hero, worn with toil, resigns the oar,
And finds refreshment on the welcoming shore.

The Iliad, Book 23.

A PAGEANT OF ANCIENT COLCHESTER, No. 1.

THE TOAST LIST OF OCTOBER 23rd 1902.

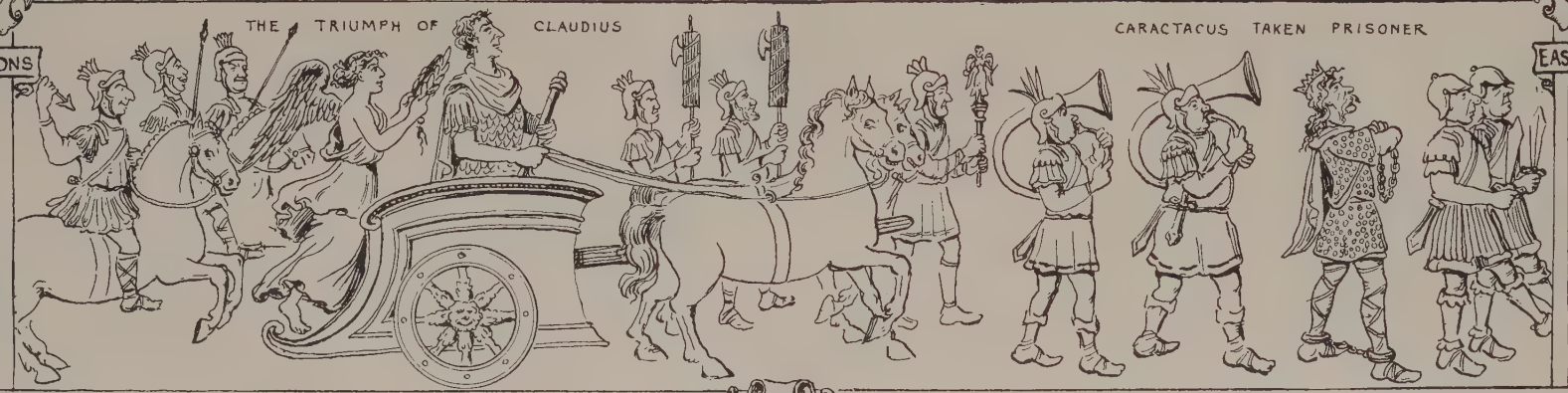
(Presented by Alderman WILSON MARRIAGE, J.P., Mayor and Portreeve.)

COLCHESTER OYSTER FEAST

ARMS OF THE EAST SAXONS

ARMS OF THE EAST ANGLIANS

A PAGEANT OF ANCIENT COLCHESTER



23RD OCTOBER, 1902 WILSON MARRIAGE, MAYOR

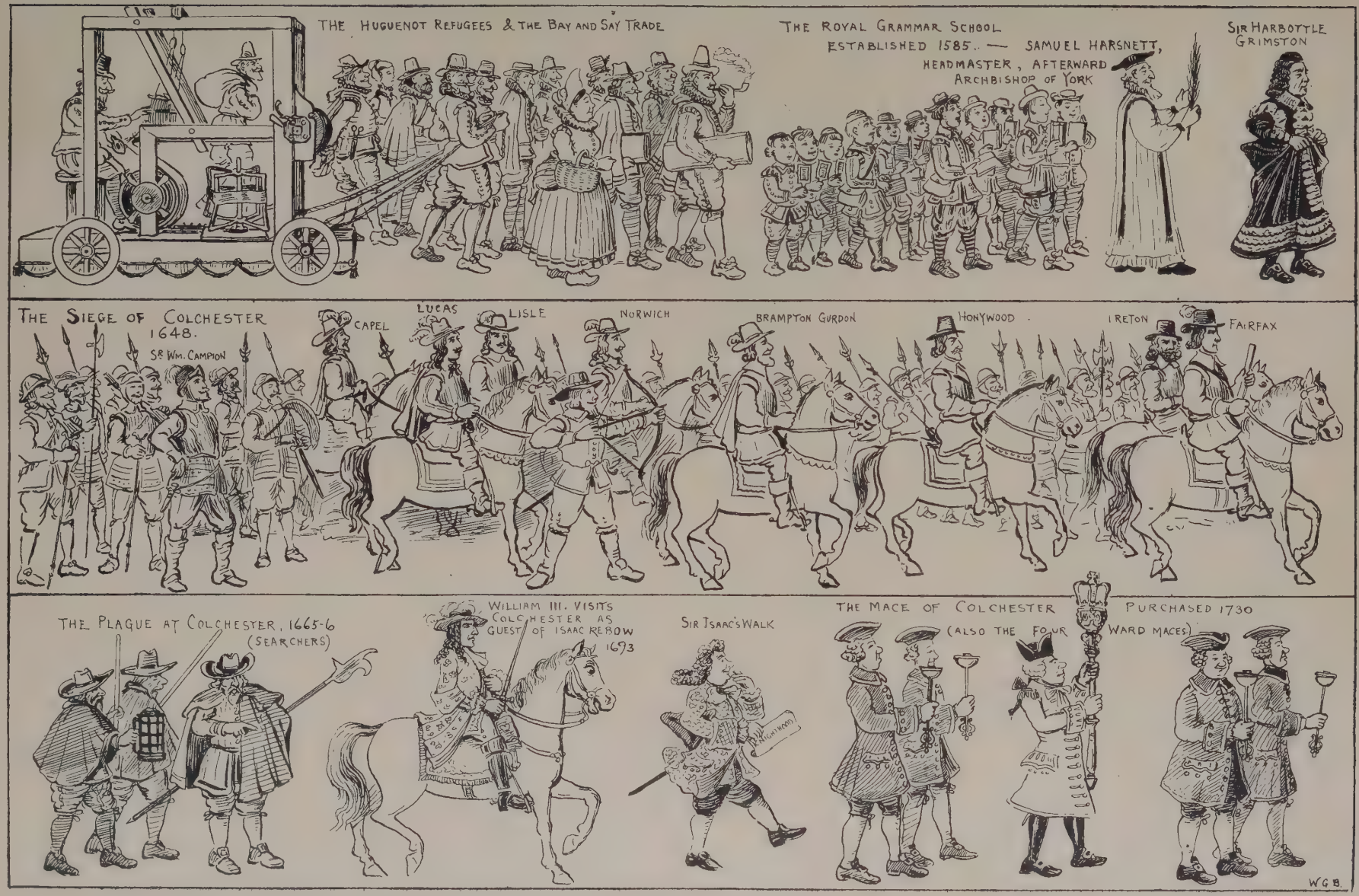
W. GURNEY BENHAM

A PAGEANT OF ANCIENT COLCHESTER, No. 2.

BOADICEA & HER DAUGHTERS
HELENA,
THE LOYING BOWL
CONSTANTIUS & COEL
CONSTANTINE THE GREAT
IN HOC SIGNO VINCE
THE DANES AT COLCHESTER
EDWARD THE ELDER & THE SWORD OF ALFRED
ATHELSTAN HOLDS HIS WITENAGEMOT AT COLCHESTER
SAXON FREEMEN
TO HUNT THE FOX THE HARE & THE POLE CAT
OF COLCHESTER
THE POLE CAT
LONG LIVE OUR EIGHTPENCES
THIS IS THE PORTREEVE & HIS FAMILIAR SPIRIT
EUDO DAPIFER
FOUNDER OF ST. JOHN'S ABBEY
ECCLESIASTICS OF COLCHESTER
THE ABBOT
CRUTCHED FRIARS
THE PRIOR
WHITE & GREY FRIARS
THE HERMIT OF COLCHESTER
W.G.B.

A PAGEANT OF ANCIENT COLCHESTER, No. 3.

STEPHEN AT COLCHESTER 1140 & 1142
HENRY II. & QUEEN ELEANOR 1157
THOMAS A' BECKET
THE CHARTER OF 1189
KING JOHN CAPTURES THE FRENCH FLAG AT COLCHESTER 1215
THE JEWS OF COLCHESTER.
AARON FILIUS DIABOLI
PATRON SAINTS OF COLCHESTER
ST. BLAIZE
ST. RUNWALD
ST. DENYS
FOUNDER OF THE GUILD OF ST HELEN
GUILD OF ST HELEN
JOHN BALL OF COLCHESTER.
WHEN ADAM DOLVE & EVA SPAN, WHO WAS THEN THE GENTLEMAN?
EDWARD IV. AT COLCHESTER 1465
CATHERINE OF ARRAGON 1516
MARY I 1553
ABBOT BECHE LED TO EXECUTION
LORD AUDLEY TOWN CLERK & LORD CHANCELLOR
ELIZABETH & WALSINGHAM THEIR GIFTS FROM THE BAILIFFS
FROM THE BAILIFFS
OYSTERS
SEMPER EADEM
WILLIAM GILBERD, PIONEER OF ELECTRIC SCIENCE
PHYSICIAN TO ELIZABETH & JAMES I D. 1603
SHIPS SENT BY COLCHESTER AGAINST THE SPANISH ARMADA 1588
ARMADA

A PAGEANT OF ANCIENT COLCHESTER, No. 4.

THE HUGUENOT REFUGEES & THE BAY AND SAY TRADE
THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL ESTABLISHED 1585. — SAMUEL HARSNETT, HEADMASTER, AFTERWARD ARCHBISHOP OF YORK
SIR HARBOTTLE GRIMSTON
THE SIEGE OF COLCHESTER 1648.
SR WM. CAMPION
CAPEL
LUCAS
LISLE
NORWICH
BRAMPTON GURDON
HONYWOOD
IRETON
FAIRFAX
THE PLAGUE AT COLCHESTER, 1665-6 (SEARCHERS)
WILLIAM III. VISITS COLCHESTER AS GUEST OF ISAAC REBOW 1693
SIR ISAAC'S WALK
THE MACE OF COLCHESTER (ALSO THE FOUR WARD MACES) PURCHASED 1730
WGB.

AN OYSTER FEAST INVITATION CARD.

The arms introduced in this card, and also in the design on page 50, are those of the Borough and the Port, and the coat of the ancient French family of "Mariage," from which Alderman MARRIAGE is descended.

THE MAYOR OF COLCHESTER
(ALDERMAN WILSON MARRIAGE)
REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF
THE COMPANY OF

AT THE COLCHESTER OYSTER FEAST, TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, THE 23RD OF OCTOBER, 1902, AT 1.30 P.M. PRECISELY. THE MAYOR WILL RECEIVE HIS GUESTS AT THE TOWN HALL AT ONE O'CLOCK.

AN EARLY ANSWER, ADDRESSED TO THE TOWN HALL, WILL GREATLY OBLIGE.

A MUNICIPAL MENU CARD.